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the recognized trees and shrubs of his district. It is pleasing to read that the high school possesses an arboretum in which practically all of the species are cultivated.

The relation of forests to snow is discussed by Carpenter in *Bulletin No. 55 of the Colorado Experiment Station*, illustrated by a series of photograms from excellent negatives.

In paper, presswork, and general appearance the third annual report of the New York State College of Forestry, recently distributed, is more like a product of the British colonies than of the United States.

The value of growth rings in the so-called exogenous trunk, as an index of age, is considered by Roger in the *Revue Horticole* of January 1.

The distribution in Iowa of twenty native forest trees is discussed by Professor Bessey in *The Forester* for December.

The big trees of California are the subject of a well-illustrated article by R. T. Fisher in *The World's Work* for February, which also contains illustrated articles on the cultivation of tobacco under cloth in Connecticut and the growing of olives in California.

What the cedar of Lebanon may become in cultivation is shown by photograms in the *Gardeners' Chronicle* for January 4.

PETROGRAPHY.

Tillman's "Text-Book of Important Minerals and Rocks,"¹ is an attempt to present to the student a brief account of the characteristics of the common minerals and rocks. The plan of the book is good. It discusses the elements of geometrical crystallography in 24 pages, in which only the most fundamental forms of the six systems are described. The physical and chemical properties of minerals are discussed in the next 5 pages. Then follow 65 pages devoted to the description of about seventy-five of the commonest mineral species, and about 40 pages in which the descriptive material is embodied in tabular form. The final 22 pages treat of the commonest rocks.

¹ Tillman, S. E. *A Text-book of Important Minerals and Rocks*. With tables for the determination of minerals. New York, John Wiley & Sons, 1900. 186 pp., 35 figs.

For an elementary treatise the book contains enough matter. The author unquestionably did well when he decided to limit his descriptions to seventy-five species and make them fairly full rather than to attempt to discuss a greater number and devote only a few lines to each. There is nothing to criticise unfavorably in the chapters on crystallography and on the physical and chemical properties of minerals. They are extremely brief, to be sure, but they are well arranged. Their topics are well chosen, and the statements in them are accurate. The tables are likewise good. They contain no peculiar features that need elucidation.

In the descriptive portion of the volume there is quite a little loose writing, which is especially to be condemned in a beginner's book. The order in which the minerals are taken up is that which seems to appeal to most writers of elementary treatises. It is not scientific, but it possesses the advantage of impressing on the student the economic importance of the different compounds. The important metals and their ores and compounds, other than the silicates, are treated together. Then come the silicates. The grouping of the latter follows no general scheme. The order in which they are discussed "is mainly intended to emphasize and fix in mind their relationships and importance as rock-forming minerals." There are some errors in this portion of the book and many irregularities in the headings of the paragraphs. Many chemical formulas are omitted where they might serve a useful purpose. This is particularly true in the case of the silicates, for which no composition formulas are given. In a few cases not even is the composition referred to. There is an unfortunate spacing of paragraphs, that undoubtedly will cause confusion. After the heading "Feldspathoid Group" there is no spacing to indicate that this group does not include all the minerals following it to the end of the book.

These faults, and others like them which might be mentioned, may seem very slight and trivial. As a matter of fact, however, they are serious in a text-book for beginners, since, though they may not teach error, they certainly lead to misconceptions on the part of the students. They may easily be corrected in a revision; and a revised edition, in which these corrections are made, would prove a very satisfactory text-book.

The second part of the volume is devoted to the common rocks. It is so brief as to be of little value. The omission of a number of the rock names mentioned would not have injured the book in the least. Peperino, talus, detritus, eurite, ophiolite, itacolumite, and

hydromica schists occupy the student's attention when he might better be learning something more about gabbro than that it is a "coarse diabase." The use of "syenitic" as an adjective synonymous with hornblendic is no longer to be tolerated in an elementary text-book, in spite of "its wide popular use in this sense in this country." This wrong usage of the word will never be done away with so long as it is taught in the text-books.

There are some inconsistencies in the classification, but they are not mischievous. There are also several statements concerning the composition and origin of a few rocks that will not bear close scrutiny.

Since there are no very elementary text-books dealing with rocks published in English, the present volume has a place to fill. It is a welcome aspirant for the honor of initiating beginners into rock study. It would have been more welcome, however, had it left some of its useless baggage behind. We hope Professor Tillman will revise the entire book, as there are many good points about it. In its scope it certainly "fills a want." The volume contains 38 crystallographic figures but otherwise is not illustrated. W. S. B.

The Differentiation at Magnet Cove.—Washington¹ has made new analyses of some of the Magnet Cove plutonic rocks that lead to interesting conclusions. He finds that many of the earlier analyses are lacking in accuracy. The new analyses result in a change in the former classification of some of the rocks and seem to render necessary a few new rock names. From the analyses he calculates the composition of some of the important types to be as in the table on opposite page.

The covite was formerly regarded as a shonkinite. Its qualitative composition is close to that of theralite. The latter, however, contains a large quantity of nepheline, while the former contains a comparatively small quantity. On the other hand, shonkinite is melanocratic, while covite is mesocratic (that is, it contains about equal quantities of dark and light constituents). According to Rosenbusch's definition covite is a typical shonkinite, but Rosenbusch's shonkinite is an entirely different type from the original shonkinite of Pirsson.

The arkite has been wrongfully designated a syenite. It is most nearly allied to missourite, but it differs from this rock in the same way that covite differs from shonkinite, *i.e.*, it is a leucocratic

¹ *Journ. of Geol.*, vol ix (1901), p. 607.